

The Legend Of The Little Drummer Boy

Legend has it that at the end of the eighteenth century, a tunnel was discovered at Richmond Castle that was believed to lead to Easby, where there is a ruined abbey.

It is said that the entrance to this tunnel was uncovered by soldiers but the passageway beyond was so narrow and full of rubble that they couldn't fit through it. So a little drummer boy was lowered in and the boy was told to walk along the tunnel, banging his drum, whilst above ground the soldiers would follow his drumming and learn where the tunnel led.

All was well at first. The soldiers walked along, listening carefully, and were led out of the castle, across the marketplace and down towards the river.

It is told that they managed to follow the drumbeats all the way to Easby woods but all of a sudden the drumming stopped, still some distance from Easby and the abbey.

The drumming never resumed and the Drummer Boy was never seen again.

The answer to what happened that day has never been discovered.

A marker of the tunnel above ground is the Drummer Boy's Stone, on the path to Easby, pinpointing the spot where it's said that the drumbeats of this poor unfortunate lad were last heard.

There are some locals who will tell you in a hushed voice that there are nights when the moon hides behind the clouds that those walking the path to Easby can hear those drumbeats to this day